

Important changes for drivers

As of January 1, 2008, any driver who uses an electronic wireless device to send, read, or write a text message while driving is guilty of a traffic infraction. A citation of \$124 can be issued.

The only exceptions to the new law is if you are operating an emergency vehicle, reporting illegal activity, or it is an emergency.

An upcoming change on July 1, 2008 includes restricting cell phone use while driving. You are allowed to use a phone in "hands-free mode"; however, holding a wireless communication device to your ear while driving will be a traffic infraction.

A few additional reminders to help keep all passengers safe:

- ☐ Children 4-8 years old must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are at least 4'9" tall.

A belt-positioning booster seat raises your child up so the vehicle's lap-shoulder belt fits properly across your child's chest and hips.

If the belt is at the child's waist (instead of across the hips) he/she could suffer damage to internal organs and/or a spinal injury in a crash.



- ☐ Children under 13 years old must ride in the back seat where it is practical to do so. Anyone in the back seat is 33% less likely to be injured in a crash than in the front seat.
- ☐ EVERYONE in the car needs to be properly restrained; having one person without a seatbelt increases the risk of death to other occupants in a crash up to 25%.
- ☐ Use the seat belt correctly; never put it behind your back or under your arm.

A \$124 ticket can be issued for each person not properly restrained.